

# THE BAPTIST Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

## Gospel blooms before Mississippian's eyes

By Betty Poor  
Foreign Mission Board

ANTOFAGASTA, Chile—The Lord's promise to Israel to make the desert be glad and blossom (Isaiah 35:1) has been fulfilled in the ministry of Betty Hart, Southern Baptist missionary for 30 years in Antofagasta, in northern Chile.

Antofagasta, a Pacific port city of about 200,000 people, is set in the Atacama desert, one of the bleakest deserts in the world—too dry even for cactus. Water for the city is piped in from melted snow in the Andes Mountains.

Hart, born in New Orleans but brought up in south Mississippi, first came to Antofagasta in 1965 to direct a Baptist school, but now does children's work and church development.

She has seen the Gospel "blossom" in all levels of

Chilean society. Now a year from retirement, she works with a children's Sunday School in the humble fishing village of Coloso, with middle-class Chileans in the Coviefi Baptist Mission, and has a Bible study with the wives of executives of the Escondida Copper Co., based in Antofagasta.

During the 15-minute drive to the fishing village, Hart

explains how she came to be working there.

It all began when she opened a Tennessee "Baptist and Reflector" and saw the following prayer request: "Pray for Miss Betty Hart as she seeks to open work among the fishermen of Antofagasta."

She had not sent in the prayer request and was amused at the idea at first.

"I could just visualize my going to the wharves greeting the incoming boats of rough, tough, brawny fishermen with their catch of the day's fish, preaching and passing out tracts to them."

Was the prayer request a mere coincidence?

One day Belia Perez, a long-time Chilean friend and co-worker and director of the Baptist out-patient clinic in Antofagasta, told Hart about a woman and her small children who had come to the Baptist clinic inquiring about medical attention for a group of people isolated from Antofagasta with no public transportation available.

Perez did not mention the exact location of the isolated area at first.

"Somehow I knew in my heart before Relia got that far in her story that Coloso (the fishermen's village) was the place where they lived," Hart says.

Perez and Hart went to Coloso the next day to investigate.

They met the president of the neighborhood council who was thrilled that they wanted to have a medical clinic and a "Big A Club".

"A" stands for "alegría" (happiness) or "amistad" (friendship) in Spanish. It is a kind of backyard Bible club for children.

The president of the Coloso council offered them the use of a nursery school (including a patio for the "Big A Club") and the neighborhood center.

They began offering medical attention to the fishermen and their families.

They also have the services of a midwife and provide eye glasses.

"I sat back and rejoiced that God had opened a new ministry of service," says Hart.

During the week, Hart works with people of still another strata of society—the upper class wives of copper mine executives in a section of Antofagasta called "jardines del Sur Alto" (high southern gardens).

Erika Cortes, the wife of a copper mine official, who is from a Presbyterian family, began attending the Coviefi Mission.

Cortes invited Hart and her friend Perez to her beautiful mountainside home for an informal Bible study with her neighbors.

Hart tells how getting together for tea with Perez, Cortes, and five of her neigh-

bors led to an opportunity to share Christ with all of them.

Hart says that after a nice visit over tea, Cortes asked her about the evangelical viewpoint regarding organ transplants.

"After a bit of discussion, the Lord led me to ask if they knew what the most miraculous transplant is," she says.

"I answered that a spiritual transplant is the greatest. I quoted a verse in John regarding eternal life and one of the women, Ana, asked, 'how can one have eternal life?'"

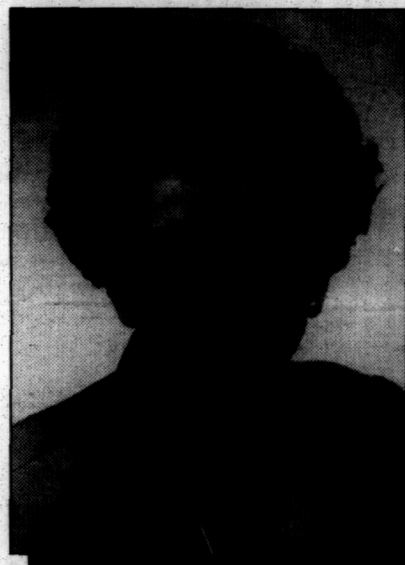
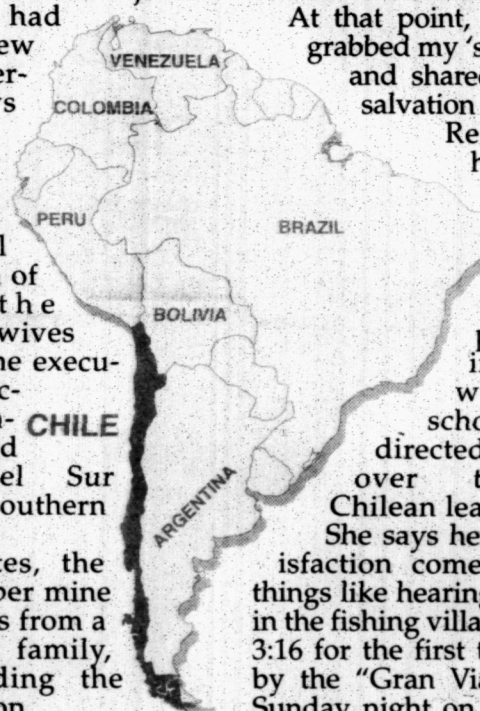
At that point, Hart says, "I grabbed my 'sword' (Bible), and shared the plan of salvation with Ana."

Reflecting on her 30 years in the "desert," Hart

remembers the important step in the work when the school she once directed was turned over to capable Chilean leaders.

She says her greatest satisfaction comes from little things like hearing the children in the fishing village quote John 3:16 for the first time or going by the "Gran Via" church on Sunday night on the way to a mission point, and seeing the lights on and hearing hymns being sung in Spanish.

Although not even cactus grow in Antofagasta, the Gospel has flourished, and Betty Hart has had a significant part in that growth.



Hart

### WHAT'S IN THE RECORD

Rankin statement

3

Gambling's toll, part 2

5

Snakebite miracle

7

Children's page

12

### Split personality

At 8 a.m., associate pastor Steve Martin is performing at the early worship service of First Church, Harrisburg, Ill., dressed in blue jeans and cowboy boots with the strains of country gospel coursing through his songs. At 10:45 a.m., Martin is back for the second service—this time in a dark suit with more traditional music and a full choir behind him. There is certainly no confusion about which church members prefer which service, but the twin-format, split personality styles must be working. Worship attendance has grown by 12% and Sunday School attendance by nearly 6%. Pastor Mike Davis said he was initially unsure about the idea. "I was saying, 'God, I don't even like this.' It took me about three months. I started realizing these people are more willing to become involved in worship than what I was used to in a traditional service," he pointed out. Martin is pleased with the popularity of the services. "Because we are reaching people, God, through his Spirit, is changing people. People are honestly realizing that it's not the way you look and it's really not the way you sing. This is their spiritual life developing so they can reach people," he said.

### Looking back

#### 10 years ago

Mississippian J. Thomas Warrington, former Southern Baptist missionary to Costa Rica, is named by the Foreign Mission Board in Richmond, Va., as a candidate consultant at the Board. He will advise prospective missionaries and help them through the application process.

#### 20 years ago

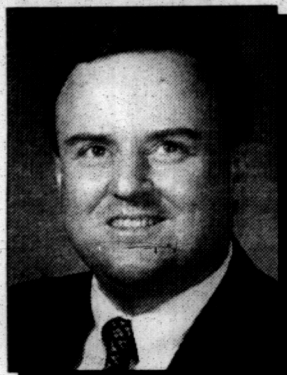
Gladys Cooper Winstead is honored by Springfield Church, Morton, as she "retires" after 50 years as a Sunday School teacher at the church. She also served in a number of other capacities, including church pianist, choir member, and teacher for Baptist Training Union and Vacation Bible School.

#### 50 years ago

New Orleans Seminary begins its 29th session with a new name (formerly called the Baptist Bible Institute), a new president—Roland Quinche Leavell—and a standing-room-only enrollment that forces the seminary to place many prospective students on a lengthy waiting list.



## EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



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**Postmaster: Send changes of address  
to The BAPTIST RECORD, P.O. Box  
530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Send  
news, communication, and address  
changes to The Editor, BAPTIST  
RECORD, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS  
39205-0530 (601) 968-3800**

VOLUME 120 NUMBER 38  
(ISSN-0005-5778)

Published weekly except weeks of July 4  
and Christmas by the Mississippi Baptist  
Convention Board, 515 Mississippi Street,  
Jackson, MS 39201. Subscription \$8.35 per  
year payable in advance. Economy plans  
available for cooperating Mississippi  
churches. Periodicals postage paid at  
Jackson, MS. Member, Association of State  
Baptist Papers.

# Sports fans should get in the *real* game

America is sports crazy. Anything that can be kicked, thrown, hit, caught, or tallied for score is subject to fanaticism in this country.

After all, "fan" is simply a truncation of the word "fanatic."

Fans can download their sport of choice, 24 hours a day, from any number of direct broadcast satellite services. Expensive pay-per-view sports events are exceedingly popular.

People, particularly men, love their sports, but do you ever worry that the obsession with sports gone too far? Does sports fanaticism have a negative effect on the culture?

Many people — fans themselves — are beginning to think such is the case.

Folks have always been willing to sit through a football game in a sub-freezing snowstorm or camp overnight for the first shot at prime tickets, but sports fanaticism has gotten out of hand in recent years.

Financially-strapped local governments are willing to put taxpayers on the hook for a quarter-billion dollars to pay for elaborate domed stadiums demanded by team owners.

Riots ensue and people sometimes die when hometown fans celebrate a major victory.

Spoiled millionaire athletes sometimes act like children, to put it euphemistically.

That's not the way it's supposed to be.

Mike Lupica, sports columnist for "The New York Daily News" and "Esquire" magazine, penned similar sentiments in the Oct. 25 issue of "USA Weekend."

"We watch a player like Baltimore Oriole Roberto Alomar spit in the face of an umpire and still be allowed to play in post-season games. We watch an athlete like

Michael Irvin of the Dallas Cowboys get caught with illegal drugs and two 'self-employed models' in a hotel room, then see him get off with a slap on the wrist from the courts.

"All anybody seems to care about is when he'll be back in uniform," Lupica points out.

The same people who complain about low standards among political candidates and television preachers will excuse pro athletes as long as they're winning for the home team.

When the Los Angeles Lakers pro basketball club signed Shaquille O'Neal to a \$120 million contract (that's \$120,000,000!), the least expensive ticket to a Lakers game shot up from \$9.50 to \$21, according to Lupica.

Rabid fans took the spike in stride, and Lakers home games continue to sell out.

Lupica's research indicates that average ticket prices to professional sports have skyrocketed in the past five years, with Major League Baseball rising nearly 30%, the National Football League up almost 42%, and the National Basketball Association up nearly 37%.

All of this while the rate of inflation for the same period of time was about 15%.

Apparently, well-fed people with pockets full of disposable income will pay any price for a few hours of satisfying entertainment — if only entertainment satisfied.

"OH MY, DOCTOR—DO YOU THINK I REALLY COULD? WHAT WOULD MY CHURCH THINK? IMAGINE—AN ENTIRE SERMON WITHOUT ONE SPORTS STORY! I THINK I'M GOING TO CRY!"



Christians are called to a higher purpose and admonished to keep such earthly distractions in perspective (Matt. 16:26, Phil. 4:8).

It is always interesting to attend the evening worship service during a major televised sporting event. One sees a lot of mothers with children in tow, absent the fathers.

There is usually a scramble on those Sunday nights to get enough men to usher and to receive the offering.

Our time, energy, attention, and money are meant for more important things, as our Lord has made exceedingly clear.

So where are the real men on Super Bowl Sunday evening?

You decide.

Webster defines "intelligence quotient" as "a number indicating a person's level of intelligence." The IQ test is widely used, and is a familiar standard of intellectual measurement.

Recently, it occurred to me that if there are valid IQ tests surely there must be some process by which one's spiritual development may be defined and measured. This might be called one's "spiritual quotient" test.

We know that all persons are not at the same spiritual level.

The growth in grace process (2 Peter 3:18) finds every Christian somewhere between spiritual birth (John 3:3) and the maturing process described by the Apostle Paul (Eph. 4:13).

This spiritual growth process cannot be measured mathematically or scientifically.

However, there is a formula which may enable one to gain better perspective of one's position on the spiritual pilgrimage.

This formula came to my mind recently as I contemplated the possibility of measuring the spiritual quotient (SQ). The formula is:

**CE + BK + CG + TI + PS + FD = SQ.**

The interpretation of this mys-

## GUEST OPINION:

### What's your SQ?

By **Levon Moore**  
Retired pastor and director of missions  
Kosciusko

terious equation is as follows:

**CE = Conversion experience.** This is the necessary point of beginning; for if there has been no new birth experience, there is no life or growth to be measured.

**BK = Bible Knowledge.** One cannot grow spiritually apart from a knowledge of God's Word, for this is the food upon which the believer lives. There is a direct correlation between one's spiritual knowledge of the Bible and one's spiritual development.

**CG = Christian Growth.** The Bible asserts that we are saved by grace, and admonishes us to grow in that grace. Every experience of Christian growth becomes the foundation for further growth.

**TI = Time involvement.** Development of the Christian

life takes time. Maturity does not come quickly, or automatically. Time involvement means active participation in those spiritual exercises which produce growth. These include Bible study, prayer, worship, stewardship, witnessing and ministry.

**PS = Power source.** The source of power for the Christian life is prayer. The believer's power source is a personal, in-dwelling God whose everpresent reality is available for guidance and strength.

**FD = Faith's dimension.** The dimension of faith must be added to every other part of the equation. Without genuine faith, the attempt to attain spiritual growth ends in futility.

All six elements in the formula for spiritual development must be included for normal

growth to occur.

This growth is not measured numerically, but quantitatively. Thus, the amount of one's growth may be designated as small, medium, large, or extra-large.

The degree of development depends upon the appropriation of the formula.

At every stage of life, it is appropriate to ask, "How much have I grown since the beginning of my Christian pilgrimage?"

The avowed purpose of all church activities and denominational programs is to assist believers in spiritual growth.

Responsibility for this growth is both corporate and individual.

Two tangible evidences of spiritual development are inner peace and outward effectiveness in Christian living.

Most Christians seem to have little or no knowledge of their rate, or status, of spiritual growth.

To know whether this rate is normal or abnormal, one must adopt some standard of measurement of spiritual development.

It is possible that many who consider themselves mature Christians are still in spiritual infancy, or spiritual childhood.

What is your spiritual quotient?



# Washington opens arms to Victory Temple

Washington Association voted Oct. 22 to accept Victory Temple Church into full membership during the association's annual meeting at First Church, Greenville.

Victory Temple is the first predominantly African-American church granted full membership in Washington Association. Eddie Jones is pastor.

Jay Richardson, pastor of

First Church, Greenville, said, "The is one of the most positive things we could have done. It makes a great statement concerning our progress."

Victory Temple began in 1987 as a mission of First Church, Greenville, and has grown to over 280 resident members.

Kiely Young, former pastor of First Church, Greenville, at the time the work began said, "It is very significant that the association has encouraged this work and accepted (Victory Tempel). This is a big step."

Young is currently the pastor of First Church, Gulfport.

One key to the success of Victory Temple has been its pastor, Eddie Jones.

"Our dream was to bring a man in here who was Southern Baptist-trained and give him support," Young said.

Jones is a graduate of New Orleans Seminary. He previously served as a church planter in Moss Point, where he started the first African-

American church affiliated with Mississippi Baptists.

Mississippi Baptist work among African-Americans has seen significant expansion, according to Richard Brogan, consultant in the Missions Extensions and Associational Administration Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB).

There are at least 14 missions or churches at various stages of development in the state, according to Brogan.

This fall, Lee Association

also granted full membership to Mount Sinai Church, which began as a mission of Calvary Church, Tupelo.

## THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

*Record* THE BAPTIST

PUBLISHED SINCE 1877

OCTOBER 31, 1996

VOL. 120

No. 38

Washington Association voted Oct. 22 to accept Victory Temple Church, Greenville, into full membership in the association. On hand for the vote were Jeff Tarver (left), moderator, Washington Association, and member of First Church, Greenville; Eddie Jones (center), pastor of Victory Temple Church; and Kenneth W. West, Director of Missions for Washington Association. (Photo by Carl M. White)

# Ministers sign covenant code of ethics

By Carl M. White  
Associate Editor

Twelve ministers from five different Mississippi Baptist associations signed a code of ethics Oct. 24 at Rankin Association's fall meeting at Park Place church, Brandon, as the symbolic launching of the Covenant Ministerial Fellowship (CMF).

CMF is a volunteer fellowship of Southern Baptist ministers organized for the purposes of encouragement, enrichment, challenge, and worship, according to Perry Sanderford of Brandon, a certified Christian marriage and family counselor and a CMF founder.

"It came out of a Monday morning ministerial gathering in 1994," Sanderford said,

when news came of the termination of an area pastor because of alleged moral indiscretions — the fifth forced termination in Rankin Association within six months because of a moral or ministerial failure.

"There erupted an extremely deep outpouring of shock, disbelief, hurt and anger in the group," Sanderford wrote in "Messenger" CMF newsletter.

"The question emerged: 'What could ministers do to encourage and strengthen one another and at the same time respond to the crisis of inappropriate behavior among the brethren and churches?'" Sanderford wrote.

"Through my work as a licensed professional counselor," Sanderford said, "I was aware of how other groups have professional organizations that set ethical standards for their profession, and wondered why couldn't ministers have one?"

The heart of CMF is a code of ethics (see box on page 5), developed over a two year period by a steering committee of twelve ministers and lay leaders, Sanderford said.

The CMF code of ethics is not a creed, Sanderford said, adding that it is more of a target to guide ministers and churches.

In support of the code of ethics, CMF plans a two-pronged ministry of prevention and restoration.

As preventive measures, CMF plans to provide material for the organization of local ministerial support groups. "There are currently three

groups meeting," Sanderford said. CMF will also plan and conduct annual conferences and workshops related to the code of ethics, and an annual ministerial family retreat.

A ministry of restoration is planned for a minister and his family caught in a moral failure, and also for a church having difficulty relating redemptively to a minister, according to Sanderford.

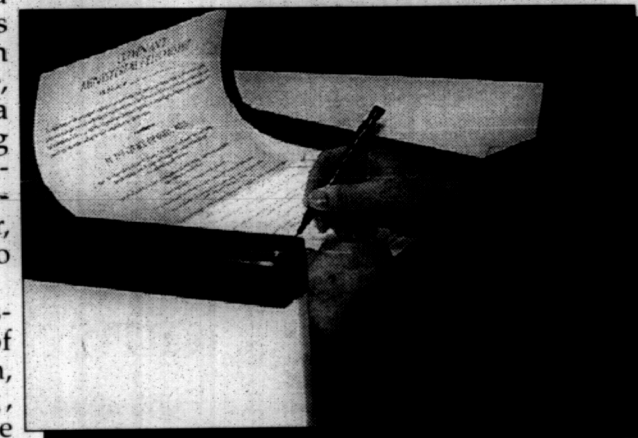
Dean Register, pastor of Temple Church, Hattiesburg, and one the signers of the CMF code of ethics, said "There is a great need for encouragement among God's servants and (CMF) is a facilitator of that. There is great hurt among people, not just in the pew, but also in the pulpit."

CMF is intended to be a ministry of support, mercy, and reconciliation, added Lannie Wilburn, another of the signers.

CMF is not a "watch-dog" group, Sanderford wrote. Membership is strictly voluntary.

It is fellowship, similar to proven models like Promise Keepers and True Love Waits, the CMF brochure states.

For more information, contact Sanderford through Rankin Association at (601) 939-2182, or write CMF, P. O. Box 1257, Brandon, MS 39043.



Dean Register, pastor of Temple Church, Hattiesburg, signs the Covenant Ministerial Fellowship code of ethics Oct. 24 at Park Place Church, Brandon, during the Rankin Association fall meeting. Register was one of 12 ministers from five associations to sign the document. (Photo by Carl M. White)

## FMB's Rankin issues statement on Pickering missionary term

"We have become aware of efforts to discredit Chip Pickering, candidate for Congress from Mississippi, over his claims to have been the first full-time missionary to serve behind the Iron Curtain. While having no intention of endorsing or promoting Chip's candidacy, we would like to officially clarify that these claims are accurate and are being made with integrity."

"The Foreign Mission Board (FMB) has several categories of 'full-time missionary' including career missionaries, associate missionaries, Journeymen, and International Service Corps. All of these serve full time and are fully supported by the Foreign Mission Board, though some serving less than two years are categorized as volunteers."

"Chip Pickering was, indeed, the first full-time missionary assigned to a residential role behind the Iron Curtain, serving in Budapest, Hungary, from August 1986 to December 1987."

"The first career missionary, Errol Simmons, did not arrive in Budapest until 1989. Ron Brown, currently serving in Hungary, did not pre-date Pickering as his service with FMB in 1985 was in South Korea."

"We regret the widespread and malicious efforts to contradict and discredit Chip Pickering, who served with courage and faithfulness as our first missionary in that part of the world."

Jerry Rankin, President  
Foreign Mission Board  
Southern Baptist Convention



# Staff reductions coming in reorganization

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — A North American Mission Board transition team chairman advised leaders of the three Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) agencies which will merge to form the North American Mission Board (NAMB) to inform employees "there will be a considerable amount of staff reductions" in the merger.

"One thing is obvious," Jack Johnson, president of the Radio and Television Commission (RTVC) and chairman of the NAMB logistics transition team, said at an Oct. 17-18 meeting, "there will be a considerable amount of staff reduction. We must begin to tell our

staffs that fact. We are as anxious as anyone to get to the point where we can tell our employees their future status."

The RTVC, Brotherhood Commission, and Home Mission Board will merge in June 1997 to form the North American Mission Board.

The SBC "Covenant for a New Century" restructuring includes reducing the number of agencies and institutions from 19 to 12.

The three agencies which will form NAMB currently have about 500 employees.

No employment total for the new NAMB was released by Johnson or the transition team. A model of NAMB structure is

nearing completion and officials hope to unveil the model in November, according to David Hankins, chairman of the NAMB transition communications team and vice president for convention policy for the SBC Executive Committee.

"The restructuring process is proceeding according to the guidelines and time lines reported by the Implementation Task Force at the SBC meeting in June," Hankins said.

Two executives of the Southern Baptist Convention Stewardship Commission, including President Ron E. Chandler, will take positions with the Baptist Sunday School Board (BSSB) as the commis-

sion prepares for its dissolution under the restructuring of the denomination.

Also, The Stewardship Commission's programs will be divided between the BSSB and the SBC Executive Committee.

Decided during a number of meetings with the BSSB, the commission, and Implementation Task Force officials, Chandler and Carl A. Hoffman, an endowment and capital giving promotion executive, will become consultants for the BSSB.

Hoffman begins Jan. 1 in a commission/BSSB relationship while Chandler begins June 19, the official date of the commission's dissolution following the June annual meeting of the SBC.

Also moving to the BSSB is Kay Campbell, Hoffman's secretary.

Previously announced was the employment with the SBC Executive Committee of James L. Powell and James L. Austin, Stewardship Commission executives in Cooperative Program promotion.

Under the restructuring, Cooperative Program promotion is added to the Executive Committee while capital giving is moved to the BSSB.

All other Stewardship Commission employees have been notified of the employment ending date of June 19, 1997.

Some have elected to take early retirement and some are seeking other employment opportunities, officials said.

The Stewardship Commission has 12 Nashville, Tenn.-based employees.

"Since the June 1995 vote by the SBC, my number one priority has been the personnel of the commission," Chandler told Baptist Press.

"My goal was to place all of our employees into the new organization. I am pleased that we have almost succeeded and will continue to work to find places for those employees who cannot retire at the present time," he said.

In other SBC restructuring news, Bill Sumners, director of library and archives for the Historical Commission, will manage the library and archives in Nashville for the Council of Seminary Presidents.

The commission will dissolve June 19, 1997, with the library and archives program given to the six SBC seminary presidents and other historical services assigned to the BSSB.

Commission administrative assistant Carolyn M. Patton and staff members Jean Forbis and Peggy Hester also will remain full-time under the new structure.

Other employees are taking early retirement or seeking other employment, officials said.

The Nashville, Tenn.-based Historical Commission has a total of ten employees presently on its staff.

## Missionaries using Lottie Moon gifts for ministries in Panama



**TOOL OF EVANGELISM** — Foreign Mission Board missionary Jackie Cooper (center) talks after a church service in Meteti, Panama. Meteti, where Cooper and his wife, Arlene, live, is located in the Darien Panama's remote region. Four-wheel-drive vehicles such as their Toyota Land Cruiser (in background) are the only ones that can get to Meteti and around to the mission points where the Coopers work. But the Land Cruiser costs about \$20,000. A set of tires, \$500. A battery, \$90. Lottie Moon gifts keep the Coopers' Land Cruiser — and their ministry — functioning. (BP photo by Warren Johnson)

METETI, Panama (BP) — What happens to Southern Baptists' sacrificial gifts through the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions?

Some might help Foreign Mission Board (FMB) missionaries Jackie Cooper spread the gospel in the Darien, Panama's most remote region.

Jackie and his wife, Arlene, live in Meteti. It's only 150 miles from Panama City, but the road to their house is actually eight spine-jolting hours long.

The Coopers go up and down that road and others to various mission points every week. Because of the condition of the roads, distances where they live are measured in hours, not miles.

Such roads take their toll, even on tough four-wheel-drive vehicles such as the Toyota Land Cruiser the Coopers

drive. Four-wheel-drive vehicles are the only ones that can get to Meteti.

The Coopers use their Land Cruiser as an evangelistic tool. Often, people need help getting to a hospital. One time Cooper even carried a body into Panama City for a funeral.

Other persons just need to get from point A to point B. There aren't many people with cars in Meteti, so the Coopers and their Land Cruiser are well known among the people. Each passenger receives a verbal witness — or at least a tract.

The Land Cruiser costs about \$20,000. A set of tires, \$500. A battery, \$90. This is where the Lottie Moon offering pays off.

Jackie and Arlene Cooper are the only FMB missionaries in the Darien. The Lottie Moon offering helps keep ministry there alive.

## Jerry Falwell's Thomas Road Church joins Virginia conservative movement

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va. (BP) — Jerry Falwell has confirmed that a monthly financial contribution to the new Southern Baptist Conservatives of Virginia (SBCV) state convention by Thomas Road Church, Lynchburg, Va., has, in essence, made him a Southern Baptist.

"For many years, I have watched with admiration the theological renaissance within the Southern Baptist Convention. I have been preaching in Southern Baptist churches for nearly 40 years and Southern Baptist pastors and evangelists have been preaching in my pulpit over the same period.

"When inerrantists in Virginia formed the SBCV recently, the Thomas Road Church was quick to show its approval and to offer encouragement by beginning modest monthly financial support. While we have no intention of discontinuing our support to our missionaries who are affiliated with many different fellowships and faith mission boards, we fully intend to take our permanent stand with the national and Virginia Bible-believing conservatives who have rescued the Southern Baptist Convention from theological liberalism.

"Thomas Road Baptist Church will continue to be what Southern Baptist churches have

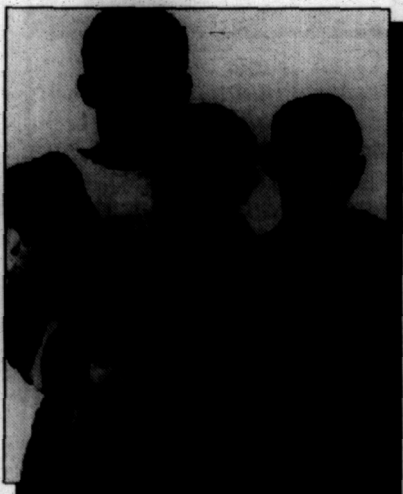
always been, independent and autonomous. We are now happy to work in voluntary cooperation with Southern Baptist churches," Falwell said.

The church, thus, becomes dually aligned with the SBC and the Baptist Bible Fellowship, based in Springfield, Mo., encompassing about 3,500 churches, many proud to be known as fundamentalist. To be known as part of the Baptist Bible Fellowship, a church must provide support for the group's 800-plus missionaries on 98 mission fields and/or six affiliated colleges and ask to be listed in the fellowship's directory, published every two years. Another 900 to 1,000 provide financial support for missionaries or the colleges but have not asked to be in the directory, a fellowship official said.

The amount of the contribution to the Southern Baptist Conservatives of Virginia was not specified in Falwell's statement.

The contribution will qualify the independent Baptist church to send messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting, scheduled next year from June 17-19 in Dallas.

Additionally, the contribution will qualify members of the church for service on the trustee boards of the SBC.



**Sharing Christ's Love**

**ROYAL AMBASSADOR WEEK**

November 3-9, 1996



# Gulfport gambler fighting her way back

By William H. Perkins Jr.  
Editor

Second in a series

For Gaylon (not her real name), dinner at an inexpensive Mississippi Gulf Coast casino buffet cost her more than she ever wanted to pay.

Before long, the dinners were being capped at the casino's video poker machines.

In a matter of months, the lifelong Gulfport resident and faithful Southern Baptist churchgoer was flat broke, estranged from her family, living on the street, and prostituting herself for enough money to get back to the casino machines.

Gaylon was addicted.

"The casino was my lover. I'd sit in front of the machines for three or four days; even the casino employees would plead with me to stop long enough to get something to eat," she said.

When she couldn't raise another quarter to drop into the machines, she considered prostituting her teenaged daughter or robbing a bank.

"You go from having a conscience to not having one," she said, with a snap of her fingers to indicate how fast it can happen.

At the end of her rope and living an exploited, sub-human existence, Gaylon seriously considered ending her life.

"I had lost all self-respect.

Suicide is something you think about when you just want it over," she said, echoing the sentiments of many addicts who want to break out of their downward spiral but don't know how.

In the midst of her personal crisis, a friend urged Gaylon to talk with a Southern Baptist counselor specializing in problem gambling.

The counselor helped find Gaylon a place to live and convinced her that she could turn her life around.

She confessed her addiction and her lifestyle to her pastor. A Godly woman in her church began to pray for her.

"She's been my spiritual mother. Her picture is in the dictionary under 'Christian.' She walks the walk. Even when I rejected her, she never gave up on me.

"She gives me hope. As long as she is on my side, I know God won't give up on me, either," Gaylon said.

Gaylon is hanging on, but the temptation is almost overwhelming.

"Just sitting here with money, I get nervous. Everything makes me think of it; with gambling, you really are possessed," she said.

Gaylon harbors a special disquiet regarding her fellow Southern Baptists who frequent the casinos.

"I kept thinking to myself, 'If you're really saved, you wouldn't be doing this.' Then I would see church people in there at 3:30 in the morning when they

thought no one would see them.

"I thought a lot about their hypocrisy," she said.

Gaylon has a suggestion for anyone who believes legalized gambling has brought prosperity to Mississippi.

"I would invite them to come with me and stand outside a casino at 3 a.m. They will see men and women fighting. They will see wives crying. They will see hungry children locked in cars.

"They will see how wholesome it is," she said.

Gaylon is determined to make her life what it once was before gambling, but she knows it will be a one-day-at-a-time struggle.

"Every morning I wake up and promise myself that I won't go to the casino, but the urge is there," she said.

Perhaps the most telling example of her personal battle is her response when asked how much she would have to win to quench her thirst for gambling:

"Do they print that much money?"

Next week: A Gulfport small businessman nearly loses it all.

## GAMBLING



*The human toll*

## PHASES OF GAMBLING ADDICTION

### Winning phase

1. Occasional gambler
2. Excitement prior to and during gambling
3. Frequent winning
4. Increased bet amount
5. More frequent gambling
6. Big win
7. Fantasies about winning
8. Unreasonable optimism
9. Gambling alone

### Losing phase

10. Bragging about wins
11. Thinking only of gambling
12. Prolonged losing episodes
13. Can't stop/borrowing legally
14. Covering up/lying
15. Careless about spouse/family
16. Losing time from work
17. Delays in paying debts
18. Personality changes
19. Unhappy home life
20. Heavy borrowing (legal/illegal)
21. Unable to pay debts

### Desperation phase

22. Reputation affected
23. Bail outs
24. Alienation from family/friends
25. Marked increase in gambling
26. Blaming others
27. Remorse
28. Illegal acts
29. Panic

### Hitting bottom

- Hopelessness
- Suicide thought/attempts
- Arrests
- Divorce
- Alcohol
- Drugs
- Emotional breakdown

If you are a problem gambler, contact your pastor, your local Southern Baptist church, or the resource agencies listed elsewhere on this page.

Adapted from material supplied by  
Council on Compulsive Gambling of New Jersey

## Portrait of a Good Minister

(continued from page 3)

By the grace of God I will . . .

make my relationship with God the priority of my life and so will nurture that relationship through regular times of prayer, meditation, Bible reading, and intellectual and emotional growth experiences.

live a balanced life in priority commitments of time to family, ministry, personal health and community responsibilities.

manage my finances as a faithful steward under God.

live a sexually pure life avoiding all compromising circumstances and relationships.

use wise judgement in referring to other professionals those persons whose needs exceed my time, training, or ability.

be a servant-minister to the church by following the example of Jesus in character and conduct.

proclaim the Bible as God's word to edify the church and evangelize others.

respect other ministers as called of God to their places of service by supporting and cooperating with them.

relate to my denomination at all levels in cooperative and mutually edifying ways under the leadership of the Holy Spirit.

be a positive Christian witness in the community where I live.

voluntarily accept this ethical code for my life and expect to be held accountable to it by my Lord, my family, my congregation, and fellow ministers.

For more  
information  
on gambling,  
contact:

**Christian Action Commission of the Miss. Baptist Convention**  
Paul G. Jones II, Executive Director  
P.O. Box 530  
Jackson, MS 39205-0530  
(601) 968-3800  
(800) 748-1651 (outside Jackson)

**National Coalition Against Legalized Gambling**  
Field Operations - Tom Grey,  
414 Gere St.  
Galena, IL 61036  
(318) 380-5060 ext. 241

Information Center - Ronald Hyde,  
540 S. Palisade Dr.  
Orem, UT 84058  
1-800-664-2680  
[www.iquest.net/cpage/ncalg](http://www.iquest.net/cpage/ncalg)

**Christian Life Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention**  
Richard Land, Executive Director  
901 Commerce St., Suite 550,  
Nashville, TN 37203-3696  
(615) 244-2495



# BWA youth coming to United States in '98

For the first time in 24 years, the Baptist World Alliance is sponsoring a youth conference in the United States in 1998.

Houston (Tex.) Baptists will host the 13th Baptist Youth World Conference July 22 - 26, 1998 at the George R. Brown Convention Center in Houston.

Baptist World Alliance youth conferences are special events that bring Baptist youth from around the world together in life-changing contact, according to Wendy Ryan, director of the BWA Communications Division.

"On every continent, there are Baptist leaders today who answered God's call on their lives at a Baptist Youth Conference," she wrote in a letter to "The Baptist Record."

The conference will begin at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, July 22, 1998, and conclude at 12 noon on Sunday, July 26, 1998.

Each day will consist of Bible study, group discussion, semi-

nar/workshops, cultural interchange and an evening worship service.

"Baptist youth conferences are special events, because they bring Baptist Youth around the world in life changing contact with each other to enjoy each other's Christian fellowship

and hear exceptional speakers who will call them to give their lives in complete service to Jesus Christ," Ryan wrote.

The Baptist World Alliance is a fellowship of 187 Baptist unions and conventions comprising a membership of more than 40 million baptized believers.

This represents a community of approximately 100 million Baptists ministering in more than 200 countries.

For more information call 1-800-368-9478. Or you can send E-Mail to: 76633.1674@Compuserve.com or: Youth@Baptistnet.org.

**Baptist Youth World Conference**

**July 22-26, 1998 • Houston, Texas**

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- Enjoy the stimulus of international speakers and music
- See how God is changing lives in the rest of the world
- Learn how to deal with peer pressure
- Experience cultural interchange

**For More Information Call: 1-800-368-9478**  
E-Mail: 76633.1674@Compuserve.com or: Youth@Baptistnet.org

**Your Invitation To Meet The World!**

## Indonesian pastor, other believers burned to death inside their church

SITUBONDO, Indonesia (BP) — A pastor, his family and two others were burned to death in their church Oct. 10 during extremist Muslims' latest attack on the minority Christian community on Indonesia's most populous island.

Mobs destroyed 18 churches, two Christian schools and an orphanage in four cities of East Java, according to sources close to the Christian church in Indonesia. Churches affected were of the Reformed, Pentecostal, and Catholic denominations.

No Baptist churches are located in any of the cities.

A mob riding in three trucks and 20 motorcycles was stopped as it was heading toward Banyuwangi, however, where a Baptist church is located. The mob destroyed three churches in a nearby village, the sources said.

Two weeks ago a Catholic church in Jakarta, the nation's capital, was destroyed by extremists.

In June, a pastor was seriously injured when mobs attacked 10 churches in Surabaya, the capital of East Java.

No group has claimed responsibility for the attacks, which appear to be well-planned and implemented.

Indonesia, a string of islands in southeastern Asia, is the world's most populous Muslim nation.

East Java is on Java, the most populous of Indonesia's islands, with 60% of the country's population of 200 million.

Indonesian Christians are asking others around the world to pray that they would remain faithful and boldly stand for Jesus Christ, and that the government of Indonesia will be

just in applying the law, sources said.

They are also asking for prayer that communities near the destroyed churches would be opened to the gospel.

## '96 Convention to be reported in Nov. 7 issue

The 1996 annual meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Convention adjourned after the deadline had passed for inclusion in this week's edition of "The Baptist Record."

Look for complete convention coverage in the Nov. 7 issue of "The Baptist Record."

## Student ministry statistics for 1996 reflect increases in most categories

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Almost a quarter of a million college students were reached through Southern Baptist student ministry programs in fiscal year 1996, according to a recently released report from the Baptist

Sunday School Board's national student ministry (NSM).

NSM's annual compilation of statistics showed 237,731 students participated in Southern Baptist student ministry programs during the year, up from 236,344 in 1995.

The total number of students involved in missions also increased from 23,491 in 1995 to 27,056 this year.

"It's another encouraging report," NSM director Bill Henry said, adding, "It shows that student ministry is still an important investment for Southern Baptists."

Henry said he was especially encouraged that minority involvement in SBC student ministry programs showed an increase during the year.

"That's something we've been working on. We want to

be effective in reaching people of all races and culture groups," he said.

There were some decreases in the '96 report, including gifts to hunger relief.

Henry said the latter statistic might be misleading, since a sizable missions offering was taken at Mission '95, a nationwide missions conference held in Louisville, Ky., which drew more than 3,000 students.

"We were down in some categories, but there were none that looked particularly alarming," Henry said. "It was a good, solid year for us."

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### Student ministry increases in '96

- ◆ African-Americans involved in student ministry. (9,261, up from 8,979 in '95)
- ◆ Ethnic students involved in student ministry. (5,105, up from 4,872 in '95)
- ◆ Churches, Sunday Schools or missions started. (362, up from 346 in '95)
- ◆ students involved in Bible study groups. (34,905, up from 34,172 in '95)
- ◆ total contributions to student missions (\$3,286,281, up from 3,158,519 in '95).

### Student ministry decreases in '96

- ◆ student conversions (5,535, down from 5,963 in '95)
- ◆ students involved (actively participating on an ongoing basis) in student ministry programs (103,099, down from 104,326 in '95)
- ◆ gifts to hunger relief (\$79,549, down from 98,767 in '95).

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# Missionary makes miracle snakebite recovery

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (BP) — Villagers in Mozambique and doctors in South Africa are marveling that a Southern Baptist missionary survived an Oct. 16 attack by a deadly snake.

John Dina, a Foreign Mission Board evangelist in Quelimane, Mozambique, was released from the hospital just five days after a green mamba bit him on the leg.

Victims of such bites usually die when the toxic venom attacks their nervous system and they stop breathing.

The doctor in Johannesburg, South Africa, who treated Dina called him "a very lucky man."

Dina and those around him believe it had more to do with the power of prayer.

Hundreds of thousands of Southern Baptists prayed for Dina when his name appeared on a missionary prayer calendar Oct. 12, his 34th birthday.

Thousands of others prayed for him after the attack, when urgent notices were posted on the board's toll-free prayer line and CompassionNet electronic prayer network.

Dina, an Arizona native, and four Mozambican co-workers were walking in the bush about

37 miles from home when he felt a sharp pain in his right calf and turned to see a bright green snake.

The men fled, and the snake pursued them briefly before turning back toward the trees.

"My leg was burning and I felt a pain in my stomach," Dina said. "All I could think about was that I had to get to that main road" (about 15 miles away).

Dina drove himself back to the main road, stopping only when nausea or exhaustion forced him to pause.

It took him five hours to reach Quelimane.

Dina's wife, Wanne, and Mark Nelham, an African Evangelical Fellowship doctor, stayed with him through the night as his pulse slowed and his breathing became more difficult.

A medical evacuation airplane landed at dawn, and Dina arrived at a Johannesburg, South Africa, hospital 21 hours after the bite.

By that time, his breathing was very labored and the wound was infected.

Gereth Edwards, Dina's attending physician and a snake bite specialist, administered large doses of antibiotics and

anti-inflammatory drugs and kept a ventilator on standby.

Within two days, Dina had made a remarkable recovery, and Edwards said he would suffer no permanent damage from the bite.

"It only takes one drop of venom to kill a person," the doctor said. "Mr. Dina ... was a very lucky man."

All Baptist people in Mozambique probably know by now what happened to John," said Wanne Dina, who remained in Mozambique with their three children while her husband was flown to South Africa for treatment.

"The villagers are saying it's truly a miracle he's alive."

"People here are afraid of snakes. Many even take a traditional medicine they think will protect them from dying if bitten," she said.

Some of the unbelievers thought a curse had been put on her husband.

"God has used this for the better. This is going to help John's testimony because people don't live when they're bitten. It's going to help them see how great God is, which will help spread the gospel," she said.

Dina said he knew people all over the world were praying

for him and he believes the timing of the bite — so soon after his birthday — was not a coincidence.

The prayers on his behalf positively affected his recovery, he said.

While this crisis will be used for God's glory, Dina said he doesn't plan to change his preaching.

"I'm not going to come out with some kind of five-point, super-power snake message," he said. "We have preached that God is all-powerful. God may have done this to testify to that, but I don't know. Only God knows how it will work" for his glory.

Dina develops churches in a largely unreached, but responsive area of Mozambique, said David Hooten, who directs Foreign Mission Board work in the country.

Working in a supporting and training role with Baptist leaders in Zambezia province, Dina has been privileged to see "a large harvest" of converts.

"I don't know if God allowed Satan to send this snake because we're working in a responsive area or not," Dina said. "But I do know that my life depends on God's control and that God has my life. That is what I know."

**Jesus Christ requests the honor of your presence in heaven!**

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Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you.  
(I have sinned.)
2. I want to be forgiven for my sin and set free from eternal death.  
(I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you.  
(I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with him.  
(I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

*But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name*  
John 1:12

If you made a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Southern Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

## STAFF CHANGES

Tommy M. May has been called as pastor of Concord Church, Rankin Association, effective Oct. 20. He is graduate of Luther Rice Seminary. His previous place of service was Edwards Church, Metro Association, for four and a half years.

Mt. Olive Church, Coila, has called **Ellisson Belt**, Cleveland, as minister of youth effective Nov. 1. A native of Tennessee, he received his education at Delta State University. He previously served as pastor of Mt. Vernon

Church, Leflore County.

Grace Church, Vicksburg, has called **Randal Walker** as pastor effective in October. A native of Mize, Walker is a graduate of New Orleans Seminary and previously served as pastor of Desoto Church, Clarke Association.

## SBC Annuity Board funds going to daily valuation

DALLAS (BP) — The Annuity Board of the Southern Baptist Convention has converted its four investment funds from monthly to daily valuation, making possible daily transfers among the four retirement investment funds.

Daily valuation offers participants previous-day account information, faster processing of transaction requests, and use of current values for transactions. Previously, valuation of the funds was at the close of the last financial markets business day of each month. Transfers could be made only once a month and the change order had to be received before close of business in the month for which the value was struck.

"Daily valuation enables participants to move money from fund to fund on any day the financial markets are open," said Jones. "However, the Annuity Board does not recommend market timing or frequent switching of investments. These system changes are being made to provide enhanced services to our participants and provide those services more efficiently," he said.

## O. B. Beverly, retired pastor, dies at age 86

O. B. Beverly, 86, a retired minister, died of cancer Oct. 21. Services were held Oct. 23 at Woodville Church, his home church, with burial in Evergreen Cemetery.

Beverly, a Beverly Waynesboro native, attended Clarke College, Mississippi College,

and New Orleans Seminary. He served as part-time minister at Elliott Church and Paynes Church. He pastored at Floral Church and Woodville Church, retiring in 1976. He served as interim pastor at East Fork Church and Pioneer Church. He retired from active ministerial services in 1992.

Survivors include his wife Ruby; sons, Wendell Bowen Beverly of Terry and Ted Beverly of Centerville; sister, Gladys Beverly Powe of Winchester; and four grandchildren.

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## JUST FOR THE RECORD



W. Walley, Eletha Walley, James Walker, Ginger Walker, Douise Gordon, Robbie Davis, Bessie Gordon, Berniece Byrd, Mildred Graham, and Wayne Meeks, minister of music and director of the group.

The youth of **Enon Church, Grenada**, will sponsor its second annual "October Fest" on Oct. 31, 6-8 p.m. This is a walk through the life of Christ from birth to the Cross.

A group of pastors from **Winston Association**, recently held revivals in Wyoming at Casper, Laramie, Cheyenne, Kaycee, Cody, Gillette, Ranchester, Thermopolis, and Sheridan. There were 11 professions of faith and 78 rededications. The pastors were Paul Blanchard, director of missions

for Winston Association; Tim Parker, Wess Chapel Church, Louisville; Keith Swartz, Bethel Church, Louisville; Charles Davis, Evergreen Church, Louisville; Charles Maples, Antioch Church, Louisville; Arnold Davis, Macedonia, Louisville; James Yarbrough,

Gum Branch Church, Louisville; Danny Cheatham, layman, Gum Branch Church, Louisville; Halton Davis Jr., Friendship Church, Sturgis; Randy Hagan, First Church, Dearmanville, Anniston, Ala.; and Eddie Painter, Ellison Ridge Church, Louisville.



**Rosa Braxton** was honored on Sept. 29 for her 43 years of service at Valley Park Church, Valley Park. She has also taught GAs and in VBS and Discipleship Training. A resolution was adopted proclaiming the day Rosa Braxton Day. A fellowship meal followed the service. She was presented a plaque and a gift. Pictured with Braxton are some of her students.



**FIRST CHURCH, BYHALIA**, recently celebrated its 130th anniversary. Present and former staff members (pictured from left), front row, are Robert C. Moore, associate pastor; Kenneth McMillen, former pastor, now director of missions, Riverside Association, Livingston, Tenn.; Charles Long, former minister of music; back row, Glenn E. Bien, pastor; Arthur H. Leslie, former pastor and former director of missions, Marshall/Lafayette Association; Phillip Hughes, former minister of music; and Joe Clark, minister of music.

## BAPTIST COLLEGE NEWS

The **City of Hattiesburg Concert Band** will perform Nov. 3 at 3 p.m. in the Saenger Theatre. The band is under the direction of Ray Young, conductor, of the University of Southern Mississippi faculty, and David Young, assistant conductor, of the William Carey College faculty.

**Jody Helms**, a freshman biology major at Mississippi College, is the recipient of the 1996-97 **Chevron Scholarship**. The scholarship is awarded by Mississippi College through the Mississippi Foundation of Independent Colleges. Helms is the son of Jonathan and Julie Helms of Collierville, Tenn.



Helms

**Luther Stanford** of Pensacola, Fla., a senior Christian Studies and Philosophy major at Mississippi College, is the recipient of the **E.R. Pinson Memorial Scholarship** for the 1996-97 school session. Pinson was a long-time professor in the Department of Christian Studies and Philosophy.



Stanford

**Continuing Education at Mississippi College (MC)** is offering Preparing for the GRE, Dec. 7, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.; Dec. 10 and 12, 6 p.m.-10 p.m. MC is also offering the LSAT Review for the Dec. 7 test. The fee includes two actual LSAT exams with answers and explanations for each section. The

reviews are scheduled for Nov. 26, 6-10 p.m.; Nov. 30, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.; and Dec. 3, 6-10 p.m. For additional information, contact Shaun Hand at (601) 925-3264.

**Jennifer Hill**, a junior in the Mississippi College nursing program, is the 1996 recipient of the **J.W. Martha and Thomas M. Hill Underwood Scholarship in Nursing**. She is the daughter of Delbert and Linda Hill of Jackson. Since 1987, this scholarship in nursing has been awarded to a female nursing student who will be beginning her first full year of clinical education in the nursing program.



Hill



**William H. "Dusty" Perkins Jr.**, (left) editor of "The Baptist Record" was honored Oct 6 at First Church, Belzoni. Perkins, a former resident of Belzoni, grew up in First Church. Grant Arinder, pastor of First Church, presented a Bible to Perkins during a reception in his honor. The Bible presented to Perkins was signed by the church members and imprinted with his name.

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**COVINGTON-JEFF DAVIS BAPTIST ASSOCIATION** is taking resumes for a Director of

Missions. Send resumes to: Covington-Jeff Davis Baptist Association, Personnel Committee, Rt. 1 Box 258 A, Collins, MS 39428. Deadline for receiving resumes is November 10, 1996.

**POSITION OPEN** for Accounting Department Chair at Mississippi College in Clinton, MS; required Ph.D.; CPA preferred; teaching TAX; send Vita and letter to School of Business, Box 4187, Clinton, MS 39058.

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, CARTHAGE** is in the process of renovating their Sanctuary. Choir chairs, pews and pulpit furnishings are available. Inquiries are welcome. Prices are not set; so make us an offer. 267-4583.

**WANTED: MIN OF ED/YOUTH.** Contact Search Committee, FBC, PO Box 1339, St. Francisville, LA 70775.

**PART TIME MUSIC DIRECTOR** First Baptist Byram. Send resume to 7541 Siwell Road, Jackson, MS 39212.

**MINISTER OF MUSIC/YOUTH:** Bi-vocational or Full-time. Fellowship Baptist Church, Enterprise, MS. Please contact Dana Dear (601-727-3501), Route 1, Box 37, Hickory, MS 39332.

**CHURCH POSITION:** Childhood Education Director. Send resume to David Hastings, Florida Boulevard Baptist Church, 10915 Florida Blvd., Baton Rouge, LA 70815.

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## BLUE MOUNTAIN COLLEGE CUSTODIAN HONORED

Walter Rogers, (center) pictured with Jim Phillips (left), vice-chairman of the Education Commission, and Bill Causey (right) Executive Director-Treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, is presented a certificate of appreciation for 47 years of consecutive service at Blue Mountain College.



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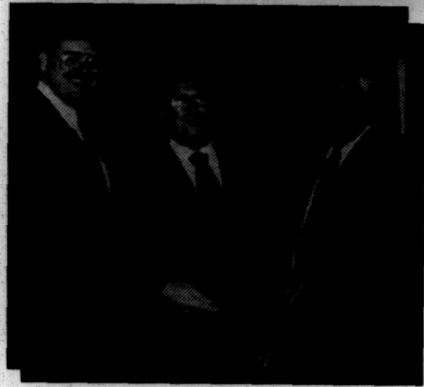
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## NAMES IN THE NEWS



Doty Chapel Church, Shannon, recognized **Mayo Grubbs** on Sept. 29 for 40 years of volunteer service as music director. A reception was held in his honor following the evening worship service. Pictured with Grubbs (center) are Shawn Kinsey, pastor (left), and James Oswalt, chairman of deacons (right).



**Acteens from Branch Church, Morton**, recently completed the first level of Studiact and earned the title of queen. Acteens pictured are Jona Phillipson, Rheannan Crane, Ashley Bates, Niki Wallace, and Janice McCullough. Sandra Measels is Acteens advisor and James Watts is pastor.

**J. Ray Beall** surrendered to evangelism on Oct. 6 at East McComb Church. He may be contacted at 215 Thompson St., McComb, MS 39648, Telephone: (601) 249-3025.

**Clyde Bray** was presented an attendance pin on Oct. 6 for 38 years of Sunday School attendance by New Liberty Church, Tishomingo Associ-

ation. She is the wife of the late Lathon Bray, former pastor of New Liberty Church. She only missed Sunday School twice during her husband's ministry. Both were due to the deaths of her parents, both of whose funerals were on Sundays.

**Russell Martin McIntire** of Clinton was one of six individuals who received a Life Service Award from Southwest Baptist University in Bolivar, Mo., during homecoming festivities, Oct. 17-19. A member of First Church, Clinton, McIntire currently is director of deferred giving at Mississippi College.

**Charles Quarles**, a native of Mississippi, has joined the faculty at Clear Creek Baptist Bible College, Pineville, Ky., as assistant professor of New Testament and Greek. He previously served as senior pastor of Hickory Ridge Church, Memphis, Tenn. He has also served as pastor of Concord Church, Bruce. Quarles was recognized as pastor of the fourth fastest growing church in Mississippi in 1989.



**Union Church, Sardis**, recognized two of its members with a Sunday School perfect attendance pin. **Betty Boyle** received her second year pin and **Jonathan Merriman** received his third year pin. Pictured with Boyle and Merriman are Jeff McLeod, Sunday School director (left), and Robert Hickey, pastor (right).

## REVIVAL DATES

**Grandview, Pearl:** Nov. 3-6; Sunday, Sunday School, 9:30 a.m., worship, 10:30 a.m., and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Gene Henderson, Brandon, evangelist; Lee Walker, missionary to Chile, music; Wade Chappell, pastor.

**Mt. Olive, Coila:** Nov. 3-6; 7 p.m.; David Miller, Heber Springs, Ark., evangelist; Gary Lewis, Mt. Olive Church, music; John Mahoney, interim pastor.

**Phillipston, Sidon:** Nov. 8-10; Fri. and Sat., 7 p.m.; Sunday, Harvest Day, 10 a.m., and worship, 11 a.m.; Art Slatton, Greenwood, guest speaker; Cricket Sims, Phillipston

Church, music; Lester M. Jeffers, pastor.

**First, Nettleton:** Nov. 10-13; 7 p.m.; Bert Harper, Tupelo, evangelist; Terry Hurt, Tupelo, music; George C. Johnson, pastor.

**Ebenezer, Senatobia:** Nov. 10-16; Sunday, 11 a.m., and 7 p.m. nightly; Rob Pelkey, Laurel, Ind., evangelist; Steve and Diane Anderson, West Helena, Ark., music; Michael Williams, pastor.

**Calvary, Belzoni:** Nov. 17-22; Sunday, 11 a.m., followed by dinner, and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Jim Hill, evangelist; Hill Family, music; Greg Clemts, pastor.

## STATE TAKES LEAD

Editor:

The Baptists of Mississippi have demonstrated their commitment to missions by their generous Annie Armstrong Easter Offerings. On behalf of all who are involved in Home Missions, I want to say thank you and assure you of our profound gratitude.

The office of the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention has just distributed the October 1995 through September 1996 report. It indicates the Baptists of your state increased their Annie Armstrong Easter Offering gifts \$100,832.61 over the previous year. This is a 4% increase.

The commitment to missions is one of the strong cords that binds Southern Baptists. You and your state are a leader in mission commitment.

Ernest J. Kelley,  
Home Mission Board, SBC

## USE EVANGELISTS

Editor:

We were blessed to have Jerry Swimmer of Iuka and Jimmy Knight of Laurel lead our revival services Sept. 29-Oct. 2. During that time our church experienced real revival with numerous rededications and 26 praying to receive Christ. This spirit of revival has continued and we are still see-

ing victories in lives.

I am writing to encourage churches to use our Mississippi vocational evangelists whenever they have opportunity. Both Jimmy and Jerry would be quick to say they didn't bring the revival. All of us know that revival is the sovereign act of God in response to the humble, prayerful, repentant seeking of his people. But consider also the fact that God does call out evangelists and he does give the gift of evangelism. I'm just simple enough in my faith that I believe if God calls them and gifts them he will use them and bless their faithfulness.

We are blessed with many God called and gifted vocational evangelists. They have proven themselves doctrinally sound and ethically upright. Consider prayerfully giving them opportunity in your church.

Bob Scott, pastor  
Eastside Church, Laurel

## HOMECOMINGS

**Calvary, Durant:** Nov. 3; special program of music and drama, 10 a.m.; lunch will be served in fellowship hall; B. A. Conway, former pastor, guest speaker; Barney Watkins, pastor.

**First, Nettleton:** Nov. 10; 10:30 a.m.; noon meal; Kermit

Brown, Tupelo, guest speaker; 7 p.m. (see revivals dates), George C. Johnson, pastor.

**Smithville (Monroe):** Nov. 10; 11 a.m., followed by covered dish meal and a time of fellowship and singing led by Four-Given from Harrisburg Church, Tupelo; Lee Gardner, pastor.

## H. Glen Schilling, retired minister & DOM, dies

H. Glen Schilling, 66, died of a brain tumor on Oct. 19. Services were held Oct. 21 at East McComb Church with burial in Silver Spring Cemetery.

Born in Pike County, Schilling received his education at Mississippi College and Luther Rice Seminary.

Schilling was the director of missions for 15 years at Simpson Baptist Association. He pastored for 20 years in the following churches: Central, Brookhaven; Friendship, McComb; Shady Grove, Hazlehurst, Central, Yazoo County, and Oak Grove

and New Good Hope, both in Scott County.

He was a commissioned chaplain with the Home Mission Board and served hospitals in McComb, Brookhaven, Magee, and Mendenhall. He also served with the National Guard in Hazlehurst and the Mendenhall Police Department.

Schilling was preceded in death by his parents and his son, Ronnie Glen Schilling.

Survivors include: wife Juanita; daughters, Connie Taylor and Bonnie Jackson, both of McComb; brothers, Charles Schilling of Petal, and Esco Schilling of Magnolia; sisters, K. T. Stewart of Tylertown, Mavis Simmons of Liberty, Lora Lee Wascom of Bogalusa, La., and Carey Wascom of Mount Herman, La.; and four grandchildren.



Schilling



## EXPLORE THE BIBLE

### Design for Discipleship

Matthew 6-7

In the Sermon on the Mount Jesus challenged his hearers to live an authentic life. He charged his followers to make sure their motives were pure in the various activities of life. He set standards by which God's people can evaluate their relationship with God and with other people.

**Right Giving (6:1-4).** Jesus charged his hearers to take care that their generosity not be done to make an impression on people, but only to please God. It was common in Jesus' day for beggars to occupy public places in order to get a hand-out. Jesus argued that people who call attention to themselves for public show miss the point of being generous.

**Right Praying (6:5-15).** Jesus considered praying to be intimate communication with God. Many people, however, saw praying as an opportunity to show others how religious they were. They loved an opportunity to pray on the street corner, for they knew people would see them. They would repeat long, eloquent prayers that were beautiful but meaningless, since their purpose was to impress people rather than God. Jesus urged his hearers to focus on God in their prayers, not on people.

**Right Investing (6:19-21).** Jesus knew that the story of one's priorities may be read in



Ronald Bishop

one's financial ledger. We spend money on what is important to us. Regardless of what we say we love, we invest our time and money in what really matters to us. Jesus warned his hearers against the temptation of investing their energy and money into worldly concerns. Worldly things are temporary and are subject to rust and decay. On the other hand, eternal things are beyond the power of natural disasters and loss of value. They also are things that we may keep forever. Jesus suggested that it makes more sense to invest in eternal things.

**Right Relations (7:12).** One of the dilemmas that every person in every generation faces is the dilemma of how to live. Philosophers and ethicists offer many principles by which one can approach the problem of living well among other people.

Some argue that power gives some people the right to do as they please. Some suggest that everyone should consent to the will of the majority. Others have said that God gives some people the right to rule over others.

Jesus suggested that we can get along well with others if we follow one simple rule, often referred to as the Golden Rule. The rule forces us to ask, "What do I want?" Then we should assume that others want the same general thing and work to achieve happiness for all. We want to be treated with dignity, respect, and kindness. Others want the same. I want freedom to choose my religion, my friends, and the ideas I embrace. Others want the same. Jesus expects you to honor the desires of others as much as you want them to honor your desires.

**Right Building (7:24-27).** Each of us is building something important—a life filled with relationships in which we affect

others. When all is said and done, you bear the responsibility for the success or failure of this great enterprise. Jesus offered one way in which his followers can have success—by hearing his words and following them. He compared those who hear and follow to a man who built a house on a firm foundation. When the storms came, the house stood, for it was well-founded. Another man, who represents those who hear but do not obey, built a fine house on a sandy foundation. Eventually, the foundation would not bear the house, and it crumbled. So it is with disobedient hearers. They can build a magnificent structure, but its longevity is only as secure as the foundation.

Make sure that your life is based on obedience as well as right motives. Nothing less will please God.

*Bishop teaches philosophy and religion at Jones County Junior College, Ellisville.*

## LIFE AND WORK

### The difference a day makes

Ex. 20; Mark 2; Acts 20; Romans 14

Every day belongs to God but God set aside one special day for rest and worship. Think in your lifetime how the observance of Sunday has changed. I can remember when believers took it seriously and even unbelievers did not open their businesses or do any physical labor. Today as we go to church, we see businesses and worldly activities going on like any other day. How sad when we do not honor our God by honoring His day!

**Take a break (Ex. 20:8-11).** The word "Sabbath" means to rest or cease. To declare a day as holy means to set it apart for God. God commanded the Israelites to observe the Sabbath properly. The day provided opportunities for physical rest, and a time to

worship God. In Israel this rest or cease of labor applied to all family members and servants.

This commandment speaks to every day of the week. God said six days were for work but the seventh day was a holy day. How do we keep a day holy? The Pharisees found out that just obeying religious rules did not make the day holy. The day is to be set aside to glorify God. God gave a wonderful cycle of labor and rest. The Sabbath, when used as God intended, provided the people with the needed rest and worship.

**It's for your own good (Mark 2:23-28).** These verses record



Cynthia Douglas

Jesus and His disciples being in a grainfield on a Sabbath. The Pharisees pointed out they were breaking the Sabbath by picking grain. Jesus responded by using an Old Testament example of David showing how meeting human needs takes priority over observing ceremonial law. Jesus said, "The Sabbath was made for man" (v.27), thus, it is for your own good! Then Jesus reasserted His Lordship by stating "the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath" (v.27).

Our time is to be used wisely to maintain a proper relationship with God. God desires for us to have a proper work ethic and a proper observance of the day of rest and worship. He is our creator, the Lord of all our days. He really does know what is best for us - what a difference a day makes.

**Worship with other believers (Acts 20:6-7).** Paul and other believers came together on the first day of the week. John referred to the Lord's Day in Revelation 1:10. The Greek word for "Lord's" is the same word used for "Lord's Supper" and "Lord's Day." The early Christians celebrated the Lord's Supper on the first day of the week, thus, it became known as the Lord's Day.

First and second century Christian historical records show Sunday quickly became the regular day of worship. The resurrection of Jesus took place on the first Lord's Day (Luke 24:1). The early believers saw Sunday as a day of joy and celebration of their faith in Jesus. When Christianity became the religion of the Roman Empire, Sunday was declared to be a day of rest. Early believers established Sunday as a day for gathering together for worship, the teaching of God's Word and fellowship.

**Give every day to the Lord (Rom.14:5-8).** Paul contends the real issue is not which day is more sacred than the other but the intent and practices of the day. God is the Lord of all our time - every day is a gift from Him to be lived in honor and praise to Him. All of our life exists in the context of our relationship to Him. Verse 8 says: "If we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord." Because we belong to the Lord, believers look forward with eager anticipation to Sunday. What a wonderful gift to have a full day for worship with other believers!

What a difference a day of adoration to God makes in the lifestyle of a person. God, in His infinite wisdom, knows what is best for us. He intends for His Day to be holy, a day set apart for Him, and for every day to be lived in a close relationship to Him.

*Douglas is a member of First Church, Columbus.*

## FAMILY BIBLE SERIES

### Facing a defeat

Ezekiel 4: 1-13

We live in a very visual world. From dawn till dusk our minds are flooded with word pictures that try to capture our attention. It might be through the newspaper headlines or through the early morning cable news programs that scroll across our televisions. The intent of those media pictures is to get us to focus our attention on the lead story or even the advertisements. Ezekiel was a man forced to use just such a word picture approach before Israel. During the Babylonian captivity, Ezekiel had what might be called the ministry of the crude. By crude I mean bizarre! His visions appear more like what the youth minister might try in hopes of keeping the attention of a visu-

ally crazed youth group. However, this group was none other than the people of God.

Ezekiel's message was for those exiled in Babylon. Those held captive had hoped that God would soon allow them to return to their homeland. It was not to be. Ezekiel's message would only underscore what God was wanting them to understand. God's message was, "Those who persist in rebellion against God will one day face his awful judgment on their sins." Note what God caused Ezekiel to see as a way of getting his message across to Israel.

**A Besieged City (vv. 1-3).** At this point in time Ezekiel had been muted by God so that it was



Jim Phillips

impossible for him to tell what God was showing him (3:26). Though the people had been hoping for some good news from Ezekiel's plight, all they were going to hear or see was bad news. God had him to take some common materials of Babylon (clay and a stylus) and depict a city under attack. He was to take the stylus and draw upon a flattened piece of clay an image of Jerusalem. To that drawing he was to illustrate to them the holy city of Jerusalem would be destroyed by the Babylonians as a graphic judgement upon their disobedience.

**A bound people (vv. 4-8).** Ezekiel was directed by God to use his own body as an image depicting Israel's time of punishment. Lying helpless on the ground for days representing Israel's captivity, he would illustrate how pitiful their plight was

in failing to follow God's commands. He would be asked to then repeat the process for Judah's sin as well (v.6). This graphic image was to intensify their grief by seeing Ezekiel portrayed as helpless and defenseless. Whether he did this twenty-four hours a day or only portions of every day, the point being made was that God's people were to suffer along with the city.

**A beleaguered nation (vv. 9-13).** To not know the Presence of God is to know very much his absence (v. 11b). The people's plight would be one of great destitution and famine. Ezekiel illustrated this by this mixture of strange foods which represented the kind of diet Israel would be forced to eat. To eat unclean food was a detestable thing to them. This would however drive home the severity of their punishment when not even their most basic needs could be satisfied. They should have been eating from God's bountiful table but instead

they were forced to a mere beggar's existence.

History should be clear. Even to God's most precious, the time comes when God will declare "enough is enough!" He is a God of the second chance, and the third chance, and the fourth chance, but he will not overlook our sin forever. Because he is holy and righteous, from that very nature he must also be a God of judgement.

Is God needing to get your attention? Can he speak to you outright or does he need to do something bizarre just to catch your attention? Do you know of someone who is bent on self-destruction and God is moving you to carry his message of the gospel? Is your family in a position to hear God's Word so as to receive his blessing and not his wrath? We will be called to give an account of ourselves before him. Are you ready?

*Phillips is pastor, North Greenwood Church, Greenwood.*



# CHILDREN'S PAGE

## EDITOR'S NOTE:

We have received several letters we would like to use in the Pen Pal Club. However, we can only print letters which list a church address. Please, include your church's address so your pen pal can contact you through your church.

## Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx  
copyright 1996

RT ERQE CWTJHCATER  
LRQOO SXRTJSE QOO  
ERSXUL; QXY S VSOO  
ZT RSL UCY, QXY RT  
LRQOO ZT AG LCX.  
JTWTOQESCX EVTXEG-CXT:  
LTWTX

Clue: V equals W.  
Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Genesis One Twenty-Seven.



## Pen Pal Club

Dear Pen Pal Club,  
Hi, my name is Kate Asanou. I go to school at Starkville Academy. My hobbies are: playing kickball, talking on the phone and on my walky talky with my friend Morgan, swimming, and skating. I like presents also. I go to First Baptist Church.

P.S. I'm from Russia.  
Please write to:  
1212 Louisville Rd. Apt. #12  
Starkville, MS 39759

Dear Pen Pal Club,  
My name is Chad Fulgham. My hobbies are swimming, baseball, basketball, golf, and football. I go to First Baptist Church, Maben. I go to Starkville Academy. I don't care if you are boy or girl.

Please write to:  
2240 Maben Starkville Rd.  
Maben, MS 39750

Dear Pen Pal Club,  
Hi! My name is Theresa Ann Clinton. I am 12 years old and I go to Sumrall Junior High School. My hobbies are reading, collecting rocks, and making bracelets. I have nine rabbits and one dog. My dog is a little white dog and her name is Runt. I go to First Baptist Church of Oloh and am in Bible Drills. I have one sister who is 14 and one brother who is 17.

Please write to:  
27 Bill Clinton Rd.  
Sumrall, MS 39482

Dear Pen Pal Club,  
Hi! My name is Callie Wilson. I'm 11 and in the sixth grade. My birthday is January 16, 1985. I have two black Labs. I love swimming, reading adventures, cheerleading, dancing, and riding the 4-wheeler. I would prefer a girl, but a boy will do. I want a pen pal very badly. I will answer any letter.

Please write to:  
West Heights Baptist Church  
328 W. Oxford St.  
Pontotoc, MS 38863

Dear Pen Pal Club:  
Hey! My name is Marcus Ivey. I am 11 years old. My birthday is Dec. 11 I have a brother six years old and a sister 15 years old. I have two dogs and two cats. I like playing baseball, hunting and fishing, and playing with my friends. I go to Crestonhills Church and Whitten Middle School. I am in the 6th grade. I would like to hear from a boy or a girl.

Please write to:  
3714 S. Hines St.  
Jackson, MS 39212

Dear Pen Pal Club,  
Hi, my name is Amy Myers. I am 11 years old. I go to Harrisville Baptist Church. I have two brothers and five pets; two dogs and three cats. I go to Simpson Central in Pinola and I'm in the 6th grade. My birthday is April 8th. I would like a boy or girl to write me. My hobbies are playing softball, kickball and speedball, swimming, riding my bike, talking on the phone, and reading.

Please write to:  
Rt. 1 Box 130aa  
Pinola, MS 39149

Dear Pen Pal Club,  
Hi, my name is Courtney Fortune. I am 8 years old. I go to First Baptist Church. I have no brothers or sisters. My birthday is March 7th. My hobbies are riding horses, swimming, and gymnastics. I would like a girl or boy between eight and 13.

Please write to:  
Route 3, Box 398  
Taylorsville, MS 39168

## HATS OFF! . . . HATS ON!

People of Bible times had all kinds of jobs. Many of them were similar to the jobs held by modern-day people. Cut on the dotted lines to separate the mixed-up hats, bodies, and names. (They are not in proper order!) See if you can match the Bible characters with the modern-day hats that would be right for their job (Find an envelope in which to keep your puzzle pieces together for future use.)

Pharaoh's baker baker	Esther queen	Naaman soldier	Luke doctor
Peter fisherman	Joseph carpenter	Salome dancer	Cain farmer
JOSEPH	PETER	CAIN	NAAMAN
SALOME	ESTHER	LUKE	PHARAOH'S BAKER

Source: *Hunting for Bible Treasures* by Joy MacKenzie. (Zondervan, 1994), available at your local bookstore or by calling 800-727-3480.



## LifeAnswers

Ron Mumbower, Ph.D.  
Minister of Counseling  
First Church, Jackson

We live next door to a person who was imprisoned for a violent crime. I want to share Christ with him, but I'm afraid for my safety. What should I do?

Begin developing a personal relationship with simple gestures like waving from across the yard and talking with him over the fence. Be open to opportunities; offer to help if he has trouble starting his lawnmower, for example. He has paid for his mistake, and maybe he wants to reintegrate himself into society and move on with his life. Remember that you, too, were once imprisoned by your sinfulness, and that Christian people didn't give up on you. If you are still concerned after taking those small steps, ask your spouse or a neighbor to go with you to his house. You can also invite him to public events, such as church functions or ball games. Develop the relationship slowly and take your lead from his response. Most importantly, pray for him and for the prop-

er timing to deliver your message of eternal importance.

My parents don't believe in religion, but I've been slipping out to go to church with a friend. I'm afraid my parents will find out; what should I do?

I'm a strong advocate for being up front and honest. Perhaps you could explain to your parents that you understand their position on religion but would like to make your own decision about it. Your parents may not believe in religion, but do they believe in you? Your trustworthiness and integrity are important, and sneaking around could affect their trust in you. They may also feel they are justified in their attitude toward religion if they conclude that it leads a child to be disobedient. By including your parents instead of subverting their authority, you can be a witness to them and will likely avoid a lot of pain. God's blessings as you take this step.

Send your counseling questions to LifeAnswers c/o The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Please be brief. Name is not required. Remember: in time of crisis, your pastor can make recommendations on your counseling needs.



MISSION FRIENDS AT STRONG HOPE CHURCH, WESSON, at Copiah Baptist Association Fun Day, July 27, 1996. Standing from left to right - Amber Morgan, Ashlee Mullins, Jessie Jackson, Eric Steckler, Arron Steckler, Shelby Robinson (visiting from Starkville), Rebekkah McLeod, Greg Hodges, and Georgia Bowlin. Mission Friends leaders are Karen Middleton and Pam Moore.